



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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September 2011



Gov. John H. Lynch and Maj. Gen. William N. Reddel, III, Adjutant General of New Hampshire, pay their respects at a wreath dedicated to members of the military who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism at the state Sept. 11 commemoration.

N.H. Department of Safety photo

STATE MARKS SEPT. 11 ANNIVERSARY – With solemn ceremonies at the State House and in communities around the state, New Hampshire marked the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and in Shanksville, Pa., where Flight 93 crashed. The State House ceremony was timed to coincide with the events of that morning, which were each marked by a moment of silence and the tolling of a bell. Former Union Leader Columnist John Clayton read the names of each of New Hampshire's 10 victims. Wreaths, symbolizing the sacrifices of the military, law enforcement, fire service and emergency medical service were presented by state officials, accompanied by honor guards.

New Hampshire's commemoration was one of a number held around the country at the same time, including at the site of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville Pa. Local ceremonies were held in Hudson, Nashua and other communities. In Manchester, firefighters and others climbed the stairway to the top of the Brady Sullivan Tower to symbolize the emergency responders who went into the World Trade Center to evacuate building occupants and became victims themselves.

POTENTIAL TERRORISM MONITORED DURING SEPT. 11 EVENTS – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and public safety agencies around the country stepped up surveillance during events marking the Sept. 11 anniversary. Security was particularly tight in New York City and other locations when President Obama was present. DHS said intelligence reports indicated there were “credible threats” of some kind of attack associated with the anniversary. But no incidents occurred.

RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE FROM IRENE – Damage from Tropical Storm Irene in New Hampshire was less severe than other states, but nevertheless some communities received significant damage. President Obama granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (PA) for Coös, Carroll, Grafton, Merrimack, Strafford and Sullivan counties. Belknap County was later added for PA. Carroll and Grafton counties also received declarations for Individual Assistance (IA). FEMA and HSEM personnel established Disaster Recovery Centers in Conway, Campton, Woodstock, Plymouth, Canaan and Lebanon to assist applicants. As of the end of September more than 470 individuals and families had applied for IA. The deadline for IA applications for damage related to Tropical Storm Irene is Nov. 7. Anyone intending to seek IA who has not yet applied should call FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) to register their losses and start the application process.

SBA AID AVAILABLE FOR VICTIMS OF IRENE – Residents and businesses that suffered losses from Tropical Storm Irene may be eligible for low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters may be eligible up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses and private non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million for physical losses and working capital needs. Interest rates are as low as 2.5 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years.

Businesses in Carroll and Grafton counties may apply for aid for physical losses and economic injury. The deadline is Nov. 7, 2011. Businesses and qualified non-profit organizations in Belknap, Coös, Merrimack, Strafford and Sullivan counties may apply for economic injury assistance only. The deadline is June 7, 2012. The application process for all forms of aid starts with a call to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 800-621-FEMA (3362).

N.H. PUBLIC HEALTH GETS HIGH MARKS FROM CDC – A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates New Hampshire has made significant progress toward building and strengthening its public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities. The report presents data on laboratory and response activities taking place at state and local health departments across the nation. Among other things, CDC found that the N.H. Public Health Laboratories are able to test for and identify specific biological and chemical agents and were able to rapidly identify E. coli in 100 percent of samples. The state also received an overall score of 90 out of 100 in 2010 for its plans to receive stage, distribute, and dispense medical assets received from CDC's Strategic National Stockpile or other sources.

VACCINE AVAILABLE FOR FLU SEASON – Flu season starts soon and the Department of Health and Human Services is urging everyone in New Hampshire to get a flu vaccine. DHHS also says there is plenty of flu vaccine available and it is free for all children up to age 18. Public Health Director Dr. José Montero says a vaccine is needed every year because the flu virus keeps changing and the new vaccine is designed to combat the current strains of flu that are circulating. Also, immunity from the vaccine is temporary. Dr. Montero says influenza is a serious illness of the lungs, nose and throat. The illness is spread from person to person through coughing and sneezing. An average of 22,000 people die each year in the United States due to influenza.

The following groups are at increased risk and should definitely receive a flu vaccine every year: children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday, pregnant women, people 50 years of age or older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions, including asthma or heart disease, and people who live with or care for those at high risk of flu. For more information on influenza and the vaccine, contact the N.H. Immunization Program at 800-852-3345 ext. 4482.

ANNUAL LAKE DRAWDOWN BEGINS – The annual drawdown of the levels of lakes and ponds in New Hampshire is starting, with the levels of about 50 bodies of water to be reduced by 1-8 feet. Supervised by the Department of Environmental Services, the drawdown is intended to protect shorelines from erosion by high water and ice and to provide storage capacity for spring runoff to reduce the chance of flooding. DES works with the Fish and Game Department to ensure that nesting, migrating or hibernating wildlife are not affected by the lower water levels. The drawdowns will be conducted from Sept. 30-Nov. 9.

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH).